



News Now

Mike DeWine, Governor
Lori Criss, Director

April 9, 2020

>>> Website to Provide Daily COVID-19 Updates for Regional Psychiatric Hospitals

Beginning today, coronavirus.ohio.gov will include information about patient screening and bed capacity in Ohio's six regional psychiatric hospitals. A new dashboard will be added to the site alongside similar buttons for the Ohio Departments of Rehabilitation and Correction and Youth Services. Information will be updated at 4 p.m. daily.



>>> NARR Best Practices and Resources Guide for Housing Providers

The National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR) has compiled a [best practices and resources guide](#) for residents, providers and staff members of recovery residences amid the COVID-19 pandemic. NARR will update the guide as new information becomes available, so check back periodically for the latest version. Please share this with others looking for guidance about protecting health and safety, and about supporting individuals in recovery housing, during this crisis. In addition to these resources, Ohio Recovery Housing has compiled a list of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for housing providers.

>>> Recovery Services Staff Member Honored by University of Cincinnati

OhioMHAS Recovery Services worker Connie Jenkins, LISW-S, LICDC-CS, has been recognized by the University of Cincinnati School of Social Work as its 2020 *Distinguished Alumni Award* recipient. Jenkins, who serves as a recovery services supervisor at Lebanon Correctional Institution, earned her graduate degree in 2012. She served as the Victim Awareness Facilitator and Coordinator in the office of Victims Services from 2009-2016 where she was tasked with teaching the Victim Awareness Program at the prison, assisting in prisoner rehabilitation by increasing prisoner knowledge through educational opportunities. In 2014 she was awarded the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction *Directors Impact Award*. During that time she also held the position of correctional program coordinator providing drug and alcohol CBT based programming in group settings, as well as providing individual counseling and group counseling. She was promoted to supervisor in May 2016. Jenkins was nominated by Janice Ricks, an associate professor at the U.C. School of Social Work. In her nomination letter, Ricks described Jenkins as a "rare jewel," adding, "She is fiercely committed to the pursuit of rehabilitation in the prison system as well as the fair treatment of every person. She is truly a champion for the cause."



>>> COVID-19 Response: Tell Us Your Story!

As we navigate these challenging times together, we know that flexibility, innovation and creativity are flourishing as we work together to meet the needs of Ohioans living with mental illness and/or substance use disorders. Is your organization/community doing something unique to rise to the challenge? How are you reaching special and at-risk populations? How are you helping to keep Ohioans engaged in treatment and recovery? Have you formed any new partnerships? If so, we want to know. Even if your work has been highlighted by local media, the Department would like to showcase the good work underway and amplify your success stories with our statewide media partners. Please send a brief recap of your work to Eric.Wandersleben@mha.ohio.gov by COB, Friday, April 17. Responses will be compiled into a statewide media release.

>>> 2020 WATM Youth Rally Goes Virtual

Due to physical distancing requirements resulting from the COVID-19 crisis, the in-person 2020 We Are The Majority Rally planned for May 5 at Genoa Park in downtown Columbus, has been cancelled. But, in a true display of resiliency, the show will go on! Just in time for National Prevention Week, the Ohio Youth-Led Prevention Network is hosting a virtual rally on May 15 at 5 p.m. as a healthy event for teens to attend at a time when they are likely grieving the loss of social activities and under increased stress. To stay tuned for more information, sign up for updates at:

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/kUPqyZk>.



For more information on Ohio's response to COVID-19, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov or call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634). For behavioral health-specific information, visit: <https://mha.ohio.gov/coronavirus>. For behavioral health-related questions, email covid19BH@mha.ohio.gov. For COVID-19-related OTP questions, email OTP_COVID19@mha.ohio.gov, for Housing questions, email COVID19Housing@mha.ohio.gov and for Telehealth questions, email COVID19BHTelehealth@mha.ohio.gov.

In the News

- 4.9.20 | *Columbus Dispatch* [Coronavirus: Adult care facilities for those with severe mental illness get aid for staffing or supplies](#)
- 4.9.20 | *Clermont Sun* [Mental wellness during the coronavirus pandemic](#)
- 4.8.20 | *The Plain Dealer* [Ohio doctors, pharmacies slash number of opioid pills distributed last year](#)
- 4.8.20 | *WSYX-TV* [Many feeling anxious and depressed amid pandemic, more seeking help for mental health](#)
- 4.8.20 | *Columbus Parent* [Addressing the pediatric mental health crisis](#)
- 4.8.20 | *WCMH-TV* [Recovery advocates raise concern toward social isolation during COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- 4.7.20 | *WCPN 90.3* [Cleveland mental health hotline sees uptick in calls due to COVID-19](#)
- 4.7.20 | *Greenville Daily Advocate* [Awareness walk will look a little different this year](#)

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